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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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## RAT-PROOFING ORDINANCE HELD VALID.

THE NEW ORLEANS ORDINANCE REQUIRING RAT PROOFING OF ALL STRUCTURES IN THE CITY HELD BY THE COURT TO BE VALID.

The Supreme Court of Louisiana has upheld the rat-proofing ordinance adopted by the commission council of the city of New Orleans in June, 1915. This ordinance requires the rat proofing of all structures in the city, and makes it unlawful to construct or maintain any structure which is not rat proofed as provided by the ordinance.

This ordinance was adopted to replace a similar ordinance which had been held by the court to be "unreasonable in not providing for notice to property owners and in delegating certain powers to the health officer of such nature as to enable him to discriminate between individuals as to work to be done and materials to be used."

Two opinions in which the later ordinance is considered are published in this issue of the Public Health Reports, pages 1437 and 1441.

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## PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN FLORIDA.

By CARROLL FOX, Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

The following report gives the results of a study of public health organization and administration in the State of Florida carried on throughout a period of approximately three months, beginning November 29, 1915.

Florida has a gross area of 58,666 square miles. It forms a large peninsula, having the Atlantic Ocean on the east and the Gulf of Mexico on the west, and has therefore a long coast line with several important seaports having communication with other States and with foreign countries.

The mild, or even warm, winters of the State and its semitropical environment offer a great attraction, not only to permanent settlers, but to tourists and invalids seeking relief from the cold winters of the North.

The principal products of the State are naval stores, lumber, phosphate, citrus and other fruits, garden stuff, cotton, tobacco, and sponges.